

Cultural identity tweetstorm and cosplay photos from Japan



Steve McCarty is with Ikuyo Mayuko Ryobe and Aniz Hamid.



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Today's @waoesteven tweetstorm compiled:

1. I see identity in 2 aspects: what one identifies with, & one's social role in relation to others; Japanese culture emphasizes the latter.
2. We can identify with constructive or destructive myths we live by, yet we need a role or niche in society; the 2 add up to a life story.
3. Discovering self-identity sounds individualistic, yet independence would mean identifying with less including one's fixed life narrative.
4. Regarding cultural identity, there is social pressure for allegiance to one culture, yet it is greater to be bicultural or multicultural.
5. No shortcuts to intercultural understanding & communication, but awareness & bilingualism bring greater choices.

<http://www.slideshare.net/.../bilingualism-for-the-individual.../>

6. Anyone fairly fortunate can choose to become just bilingual, using 2nd language as a tool, or bilingual & bicultural, with nothing lost.
7. A bilingual perspective is more than ideas; e.g., between English & Japanese, one can see the same situation through both cultures' eyes.
8. When intercultural parents speak different native languages to their children from birth, children develop 2 native languages & cultures.
9. A monolingual language teacher tells students, i.e., GO where I haven't gone; a bilingual teacher says, COME to where you too can reach.
10. Toward 2020 Olympics, Japanese should admit need for foreign languages; media should ask experts on Japan, not echo myths & stereotypes.
11. 東京五輪に向かい、英文メディアで繰り返されている誤解を直されない限り、専門家が日本の素顔を議論するサイトや場は求められている。
Need media or forums to debunk myths, show real Japan.

#Tokyo2020vision



Tourist with manga-style hair

by 渡月橋 (Togetsukyo = Moon-Crossing Bridge), Arashiyama, Kyoto



Samurai drama actors taking an ice cream break
in Arashiyama, Kyoto



Chinese tourists renting kimonos for cosplay with the full maiko course
in Arashiyama, Kyoto



Boats for tourists and cormorant fishing in the summer
in a Katsura River inlet, Arashiyama, Kyoto



Crossing the Moon-Crossing Bridge, Arashiyama, Kyoto



Gion Festival (祇園祭) parade in Kyoto



Malaysian tourist of Indian heritage doing kimono cosplay
with a local university teacher near Kyoto Station



Japanese tourists doing cosplay in traditional Shinto shrine maiden kimonos
at the Kumano Kodo (熊野古道) in Wakayama Prefecture



The author doing cosplay on a hotel roof at night
in Shirahama, Wakayama Prefecture



A real maiko, 16-year-old Ichiaya (市彩)
in Kamishichiken-machi, Kyoto City (京都市上七軒町)

From the Twitter Moment “Bilingualism and Cultural Identity” (August 12, 2017)

<https://twitter.com/i/moments/896284312638636033>

at <https://twitter.com/waoestev>

shared with <https://www.facebook.com/waoestev/posts/1061188800627366>

at <https://www.facebook.com/waoestev>

plus the author’s photos